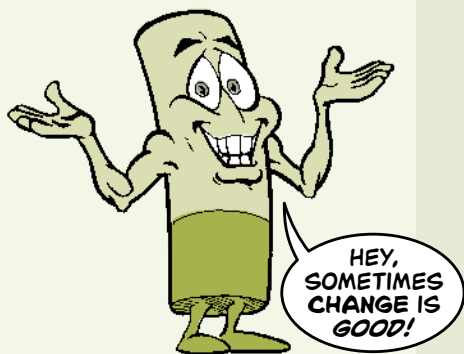


New Discharge Device Advice



Take the change made to the complete discharge device (CDD) on several of the batteries manufactured by BlueStar and SAFT America. Batteries like the BA-5800A/U, NSN 6135-01-440-7774, the BA-5600A/U, NSN 6135-01-441-0402 and the BA-5590/U, NSN 6135-01-036-3495, for example.

The old CDD was a pain to activate. First you had to remove or carefully slit the CDD label. Then you had to depress the CDD with a small screwdriver. A slip could damage the battery or cause a battery to vent.

A little change in this case would be good and that's just what has happened.

Finding their way into your battery supply this year are batteries with a new CDD. So, put the screwdriver back in the toolbox—you won't need it.

The new CDDs have a plastic activation tab which is covered by a label. Just peel back the edge of the label and remove it. Removing the label will expose the pull-tab. Pull the tab to activate the CDD.

Here's one thing that hasn't changed: Only trained and designated personnel are supposed to do the discharging. Here's how they do it:

- ★ Discharge the batteries in a secure, well-ventilated area away from people and hazardous material.
- ★ Set discharging batteries at least 2 inches apart on all sides.
- ★ Let the batteries sit a minimum of 5 days for complete discharge.
- ★ Remember that discharging batteries may be hot. The heat could even deform the battery case. That's normal. However, if you hear a hissing sound or smell a strong, pungent odor, clear the area immediately until the odor is gone and the hissing stops. This is battery venting and you must dispose of these batteries as hazardous waste.

At the end of a normal, complete discharge cycle, the amount of lithium remaining in the battery will be small enough to let you dispose of the battery as non-hazardous waste. Even so, some places still require special disposal procedures.

